



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/702,933	10/31/2000	Craig Mahaney	Sprint-IDF-1499(4000-0250	9940

7590

12/04/2002

Steven J. Funk
Sprint Law Department
8140 Ward Parkway
Kansas City, MO 64114

EXAMINER

TAYLOR, BARRY W

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2643

DATE MAILED: 12/04/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/702,933

Applicant(s)

MAHANEY, CRAIG

Examiner

Barry W Taylor

Art Unit

2643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 August 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bridger et al. (6,272,209 hereinafter Bridger) in view of Burnett et al (hereinafter Burnett) further in view of Kleffner (5,734,711).

Regarding claim 10. Bridger teaches an apparatus for determining the operational status of an integrated services hub supporting a plurality of telephone lines (Title, abstract), comprising:

a plurality of subscriber line interface circuits (SLIC), the number of SLICs equaling the number of telephone lines ... (col. 1 lines 5-67, columns 2-10, see subscriber line interface circuits in figures 3-5);

at least one subscriber line access circuit connected to the SLICs to detect an off-hook condition in the telephone line (col. 2 lines 40-67, col. 3 lines 1-3, col. 3 lines 60-62, col. 5 lines 41-43, col. 7 lines 1-10);

a power monitor for monitoring the status of AC power to the integrated services hub (see "LIFELINE" in the Title, abstract, col. 3 lines 60-63, col. 5 lines 41-43, col. 6 lines 4-67, col. 7 lines 26-28, lines 39-41, col. 8 lines 4-6, lines 26-31);

Art Unit: 2643

a telephony controller, the telephony controller receiving notification from the power monitor regarding the AC power status (see "LIFELINE" in the Title, abstract, col. 3 lines 60-63, col. 5 lines 41-43, col. 6 lines 4-67, col. 7 lines 26-28, lines 39-41, col. 8 lines 4-6, lines 26-31), the telephony controller receiving notification from the SLAC on an off-hook condition (col. 3 lines 60-63, col. 5 lines 41-45, col. 6 lines 29-31, columns 7-10).

Bridger does not explicitly show status of a customer premises and the telephony controller activating a warning signal that the AC power has failed.

Burnett teaches a method and apparatus for providing network infrastructure information for a network control center (Title). Burnett discloses that management of backup power for integrated services is extremely complex and that there exist a need to provide real time transmission of information indicating AC power failure (entire disclosure). Burnett even discloses that when AC power line loss occurs, batteries come on line and are also monitored (columns 5-6) and when problems arise, alarm signals are generated and transmitted along with the normal flow of data. Burnett clearly discloses that serious alarms (i.e. AC power failure) require immediate attention and if immediate action is not taken will lead to the loss of the entire telecommunication equipment and possibly loss of telecommunications service in a region of the country (column 6).

Kleffner teaches a telecommunication system with energy-saving mode (Title, abstract). Kleffner appertaining subscriber line module is controlled into an energy saving mode by reducing operating voltage of peripheral equipment (Title, abstract, columns 1-3) based upon energy saving information (column 1 line 30). Kleffner clearly discloses that peripheral equipment can be controlled into a current free or into a stand by mode by using a time range

(i.e. polling range) for alternating the state of the subscriber line module (columns 1-3). Kleffner discloses using "presence check" (column 2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to any one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Bridger in view of Burnett to activate a alert message signal indicating AC power failure and to use "presence check" as taught by Kleffner so that immediate action may be taken so that the loss of an entire service region may be avoided as well as allowing peripheral equipment to be put into a current free state or stand by mode thus prolonging battery life as taught by Kleffner.

Regarding claims 11-12. Bridger does not explicitly show wherein the warning signal is audible.

Burnett teaches a method and apparatus for providing network infrastructure information for a network control center (Title). Burnett discloses that management of backup power for integrated services is extremely complex and that there exist a need to provide real time transmission of information indicating AC power failure (entire disclosure). Burnett even discloses that when AC power line loss occurs, batteries come on line and are also monitored (columns 5-6) and when problems arise, alarm signals are generated and transmitted along with the normal flow of data. Burnett clearly discloses that serious alarms (i.e. AC power failure) require immediate attention and if immediate action is not taken will lead to the loss of the entire telecommunication equipment and possibly loss of telecommunications service in a region of the country (column 6).

Kleffner teaches a telecommunication system with energy-saving mode (Title, abstract). Kleffner appertaining subscriber line module is controlled into an energy saving mode by reducing operating voltage of peripheral equipment (Title, abstract, columns 1-3) based upon energy saving information (column 1 line 30). Kleffner clearly discloses that peripheral equipment can be controlled into a current free or into a stand by mode by using a time range (i.e. polling range) for alternating the state of the subscriber line module (columns 1-3). Kleffner discloses using "presence check" (column 2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to any one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Bridger in view of Burnett to activate a alert message signal indicating AC power failure and to use "presence check" as taught by Kleffner so that immediate action may be taken so that the loss of an entire service region may be avoided as well as allowing peripheral equipment to be put into a current free state or stand by mode thus prolonging battery life as taught by Kleffner.

Regarding claim 13. Bridger teaches wherein the telephony controller and the power monitor are software components (see first line of abstract, columns 1-10).

Regarding claim 14. Bridger teaches an apparatus for determining the operational status of an integrated services hub supporting a plurality of telephone lines (Title, abstract), comprising:

a plurality of subscriber line interface circuits (SLIC), the number of SLICs equaling the number of telephone lines ... (col. 1 lines 5-67, columns 2-10, see subscriber line interface circuits in figures 3-5);

Art Unit: 2643

at least one subscriber line access circuit connected to the SLICs to detect an off-hook condition in the telephone line (col. 2 lines 40-67, col. 3 lines 1-3, col. 3 lines 60-62, col. 5 lines 41-43, col. 7 lines 1-10);

a power monitor for monitoring the status of AC power to the integrated services hub (see "LIFELINE" in the Title, abstract, col. 3 lines 60-63, col. 5 lines 41-43, col. 6 lines 4-67, col. 7 lines 26-28, lines 39-41, col. 8 lines 4-6, lines 26-31);

a telephony controller, the telephony controller receiving notification from the network connection monitor regarding wide area network connection (Title, abstract, columns 1-2, col. 3 lines 60-63, col. 5 lines 41-43, col. 6 lines 4-67, columns 7-10), the telephony controller receiving notification from the SLAC on an off-hook condition (col. 3 lines 60-63, col. 5 lines 41-45, col. 6 lines 29-31, columns 7-10).

Bridger does not explicitly show the telephony controller activating a warning signal that the wide area network (col. 7 lines 11-13) connection has failed.

Burnett teaches a method and apparatus for providing network infrastructure information for a network control center (Title). Burnett discloses that management of backup power for integrated services is extremely complex and that there exist a need to provide real time transmission of information indicating AC power failure (entire disclosure). Burnett even discloses that when AC power line loss occurs, batteries come on line and are also monitored (columns 5-6) and when problems arise, alarm signals are generated and transmitted along with the normal flow of data. Burnett clearly discloses that serious alarms (i.e. AC power failure) require immediate attention and if immediate action is not taken will lead to the loss of the entire telecommunication equipment and possibly loss of telecommunications service in a region of the

country (column 6). Burnett even discloses monitoring and acknowledging messages from the network (column 7).

Kleffner teaches a telecommunication system with energy-saving mode (Title, abstract). Kleffner appertaining subscriber line module is controlled into an energy saving mode by reducing operating voltage of peripheral equipment (Title, abstract, columns 1-3) based upon energy saving information (column 1 line 30). Kleffner clearly discloses that peripheral equipment can be controlled into a current free or into a stand by mode by using a time range (i.e. polling range) for alternating the state of the subscriber line module (columns 1-3). Kleffner discloses using "presence check" (column 2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to any one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Bridger in view of Burnett to activate a alert message signal indicating AC power failure and to use "presence check" as taught by Kleffner so that immediate action may be taken so that the loss of an entire service region may be avoided as well as allowing peripheral equipment to be put into a current free state or stand by mode thus prolonging battery life as taught by Kleffner.

Regarding claims 15-16. Bridger does not explicitly show wherein the warning signal is audible.

Burnett teaches a method and apparatus for providing network infrastructure information for a network control center (Title). Burnett discloses that management of backup power for integrated services is extremely complex and that there exist a need to provide real time transmission of information indicating AC power failure (entire disclosure). Burnett even

Art Unit: 2643

discloses that when AC power line loss occurs, batteries come on line and are also monitored (columns 5-6) and when problems arise, alarm signals are generated and transmitted along with the normal flow of data. Burnett clearly discloses that serious alarms (i.e. AC power failure) require immediate attention and if immediate action is not taken will lead to the loss of the entire telecommunication equipment and possibly loss of telecommunications service in a region of the country (column 6).

Kleffner teaches a telecommunication system with energy-saving mode (Title, abstract). Kleffner appertaining subscriber line module is controlled into an energy saving mode by reducing operating voltage of peripheral equipment (Title, abstract, columns 1-3) based upon energy saving information (column 1 line 30). Kleffner clearly discloses that peripheral equipment can be controlled into a current free or into a stand by mode by using a time range (i.e. polling range) for alternating the state of the subscriber line module (columns 1-3). Kleffner discloses using "presence check" (column 2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to any one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Bridger in view of Burnett to activate a alert message signal indicating AC power failure and to use "presence check" as taught by Kleffner so that immediate action may be taken so that the loss of an entire service region may be avoided as well as allowing peripheral equipment to be put into a current free state or stand by mode thus prolonging battery life as taught by Kleffner.

Regarding claim 17. Bridger teaches wherein the telephony controller and the power monitor are software components (see first line of abstract, columns 1-10).

Method claims 1-4 are rejected for the same reasons as apparatus claims 10-13 since the recited apparatus would perform the claimed steps.

Method claims 5-9 are rejected for the same reason as apparatus claims 14-17 since the recited apparatus would perform the claimed steps.

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barry W. Taylor whose telephone number is (703) 305-4811. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:30am to 4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz can be reached on (703) 305-4708. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to Technology Center 2600 customer service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.


CURTIS KUNTZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600